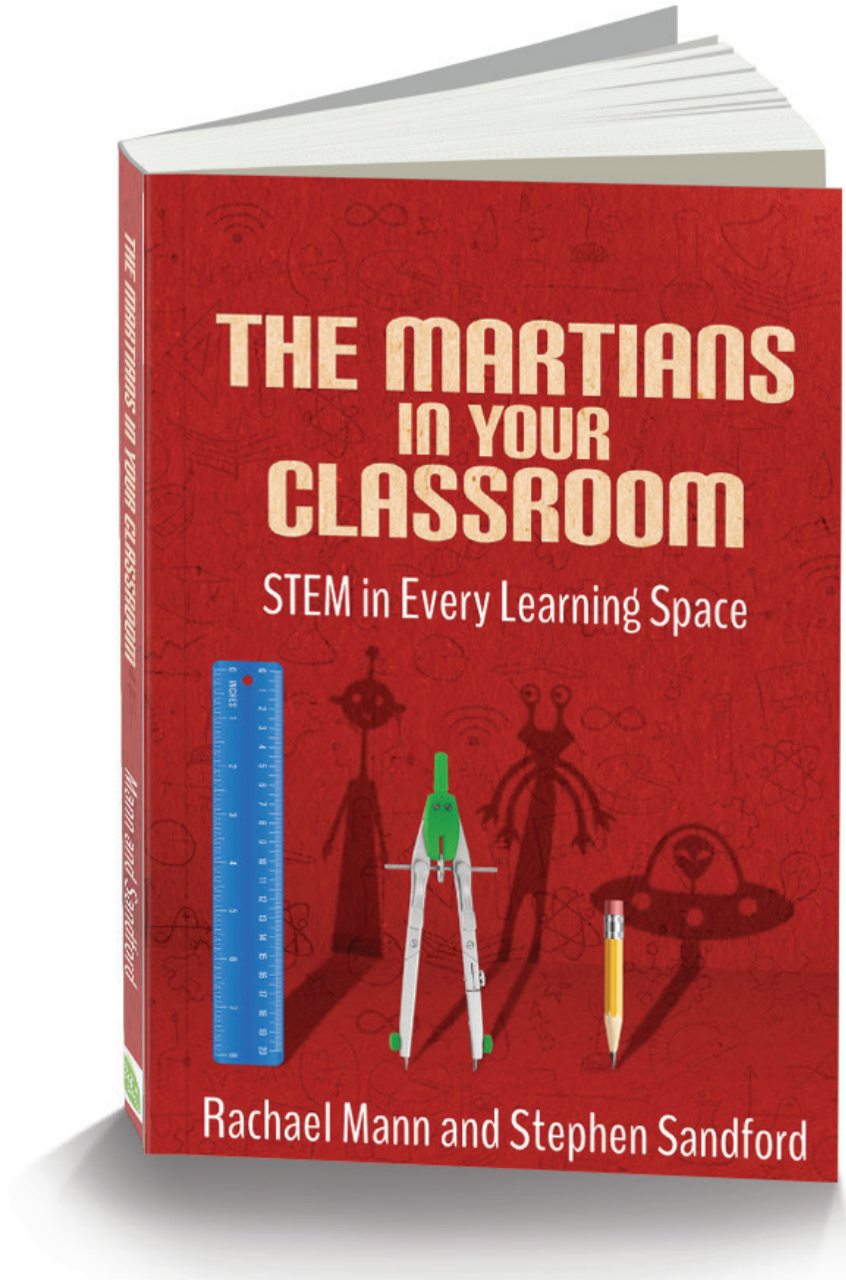
MANN AND SANDFORD'S NEW BOOK, *THE MARTIANS IN YOUR CLASSROOM*



"I don't think the human race will survive the next thousand years, unless we spread into space. There are too many accidents that can befall life on a single planet. But I'm an optimist. We will reach out to the stars."

—Stephen Hawking

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Book Brings Space Exploration into Classrooms, Inspiring Students of All Ages with STEM

The ways young people experience the world and education is vastly different today than it was ten, twenty, or thirty years ago. In their backpacks and back pockets, students carry more computing power than the entirety of NASA in 1969—when they took two astronauts to the moon and back. It's little wonder that teachers often feel their students resemble alien life forms.

In their new book, *The Martians in Your Classroom: STEM in Every Learning Space*, Rachael Mann and Stephen Sandford question legacy thinking in education and the systems that no longer serve today's youth. They reimagine what is possible for students and ask teachers to help prepare them for the next generation of jobs that do not yet exist and for career paths in the communities, countries, and even planets they might not recognize.

Research by Randstad North America in 2016 indicated three million more U.S. STEM jobs than skilled workers to fill them. "America depends on its technological leadership for security and a healthy economy. Yet we are in danger of losing that very technological leadership," Stephen Sandford writes.

By establishing what Mann and Sandford call a Martian Classroom, educators can emphasize individualized learning, mastery learning, and most importantly, *frustrating* learning through STEM-oriented lesson plans involving Space exploration. Regardless of the subject area or grade level, Space exploration never fails to inspire and cultivate interest. It also creates beneficial spinoffs that lead students to think critically and explore beyond their current mindset.

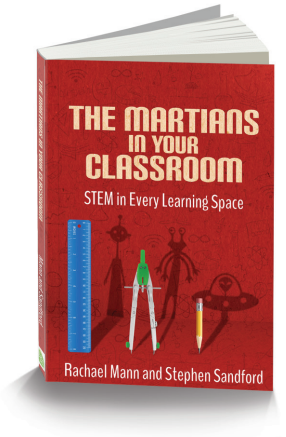
"Connecting studies to real-life applications in space exploration generates the excitement in the classroom that is needed to make classes more interesting and the related careers more appealing, and this requires a greater emphasis on career and technology education (CTE) to provide these hands-on opportunities to explore STEM fields," Mann writes.

The Martians in Your Classroom details the necessity of "backwards by design" forecasting and futuristic skill sets preparing students to succeed in a vastly different society. Learning spaces and content is designed accordingly. Readers find Space-oriented bookshelf, website, and app recommendations as well as a Martian Classroom terminology reference combined with fascinating Space facts and stats. Launchpad activities close out every chapter, providing researching, writing, and discussion topics.

THE MARTIANS IN YOUR CLASSROOM:
STEM in Every Learning Space

By Rachael Mann and Stephen Sandford

EdTechTeam Press



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For an interview with Rachael Mann,
please visit www.RachaelMann.co or find her on Twitter or Instagram @RachaelEdu.

For an interview with Stephen Sandford,
please visit www.thegravitywell.org or find him on Twitter or Instagram @SPSandford.

PRAISE FOR *THE MARTIANS IN YOUR CLASSROOM*

"Mann and Sandford remind us that, to make our teaching relevant and exciting to students, we 'must address the big issue of exploring and inhabiting the next frontiers of Space. To do so, we have to look up.' When we look up to Space, it's hard not to feel a sense of wonder. With this essential guide, they bring to life Ray Bradbury's dictum: 'It is good to renew one's wonder . . . Space travel has again made children of us all.'"

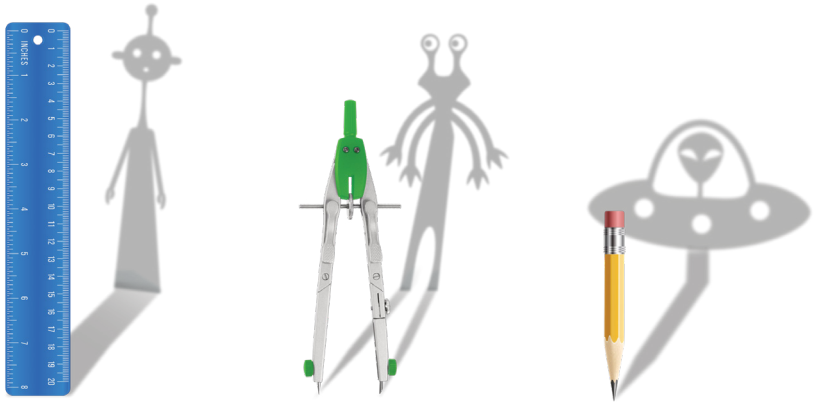
—Talia Milgrom-Elcott, executive director and founder, 100Kin10

"*The Martians in Your Classroom* takes a powerfully unique spin on STEM in our schools and leaves educators feeling inspired and well equipped to toss out the overprescribed and overstandardized learning conditions many of our students endure."

—Trevor MacKenzie, author of *Inquiry Mindset* and *Dive into Inquiry*

"Mann and Sandford fuel a twin-turbo rocket onto a different planet regarding their claim about where education was and where it needs to go. Their Launchpad reflections offer practical applications and intuitive, orbital expertise that any classroom can adopt. *The Martians in Your Classroom* is not only about STEM, STEAM, or what you want to call your own modern version of educating students; it is simply a call to action for new-age thinking, not old-school, status quo instruction . . . . Grab this book to begin or continue your creative work with kids because they are counting on you!"

—Rick Jetter, PhD, founder of Pushing Boundaries Consulting, LLC, national education consultant, speaker, and author of six books, including *Let Them Speak!* and *Escaping the School Leader's Dunk Tank*



The exploration of space will go ahead, whether we join in it or not, and it is one of the great adventures of all time, and no nation which expects to be the leader of other nations can expect to stay behind in the race for space.

—President John F. Kennedy
speech at Rice University, September 12, 1962

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

RACHAEL MANN

Author and speaker Rachael Mann spent fourteen years as a high school career and technical education teacher before founding #TeachLikeTED that provides teachers, students, and leaders with tools for presentation literacy. Formerly the Network to Transform Teaching and STEM professional learning director for Northern Arizona University and the state director for Educators Rising Arizona, Rachael's aim is to broaden the conversation around education reform and is a founding member of the Council on the Future of Education. She is a Google Certified Educator with a master's in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University. She resides in Phoenix and enjoys hiking, tennis, and good eats.

STEPHEN P. SANDFORD

Stephen P. Sandford is systems engineering director at Stinger, Ghaffarian Technologies, Inc.,working on satellite repair, asteroid utilization technologies, and space policy formulation. He is the former director for Space Technology and Exploration at NASA's Langley Research Center, where he led engineers, researchers, and mission architects to create high-payoff, cross-cutting space technologies to meet the toughest human exploration challenges. Program implementation along with planning and advocating for the Center's aerospace expertise facilities were all under Stephen's purview. Over an aerospace career spanning twenty-eight years, Stephen has worked closely with teams from every NASA center to develop remote sensing systems and flight test vehicles to enable Earth science research, noel space technologies, and planetary and human exploration, including successful flight tests of inflatable reentry systems, the Ares 1-X vehicle, and Pad Abort test for the Orion Launch Abort System. Among Stephen's numerous awards are two NASA honor award medals. Phi Beta Kappa, he earned a B.S. in physics at Randolph Macon, a M.S. in electrical engineering at University of Virginia, and a M.S. in optical science at University of Arizona. He resides in York County, Virginia, and enjoys reading, backpacking, volleyball, cycling, and running. Sandford is also the coauthor of *The Gravity Well*.

Looking for a podcast guest or event speaker?

QUESTIONS FOR THE AUTHORS

Why does Space exploration matter?

What are some of the spinoffs we enjoy today as a result of Space exploration?

Why is STEM education so vital to the success of any country that wants to be a world leader?

What do you believe is the fastest way forward to close the STEM learning gap?

Define what you mean by Gen Mars?

What makes a Martian Classroom unique?

What is "frustrating" learning, and why is it so important for student success?

What are some of the spinoffs from Space exploration curriculum that can happen in the Martian Classroom?